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CONFIDENTIALCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Port Information on Tsingtao

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[The Office of Naval Intelligence furnished the following information to CIA
for IAC dissemination in accordance with paragraph 3c of NSCID #7.] [This is
DIO/13ND Report No. 3-54.]

1. [redacted] The vessel called
at Tsingtao in ballast to load a cargo of whole peanuts consigned to Gdynia,
Poland.

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Port and Harbor Information

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2. [redacted] approached the harbor limit at night at approximately 2300. The
ship's characteristics, color, size, charter, etc, had been radioed ahead while
[redacted] at sea. The ship's master had been instructed to do so by the
ship's agent [redacted] Upon arrival [redacted] anchored at approximately
36°1'15"N, 120°19'E [redacted] No navigational aids were operat-
ing except the Ku-Tzu-Yang (Takia Tao) light buoy at 120°19'32"E, 35°59'28"N;
[redacted] this light was made operative for a few minutes to facilitate
anchoring. [redacted] instructions were that the harbor could not be entered
at night. The prohibited areas [redacted] were verified [redacted]
3. At about 0900 next morning a Chinese pilot and two Chinese soldiers came aboard.
The entire ship was searched thoroughly, crew list was checked, and all monies,
cameras, binoculars, tobacco, liquor and rockets were sealed. Photographs were
taken of each crew member and later attached to passes that were required to go
ashore.
4. No military or merchant vessels were observed on entering the harbor. No hazards
to navigation were observed. [redacted] tied up at the south side of Wharf No 2,
[redacted] with the aid of a tug. [redacted]
[redacted] it appeared to be of
"standard" size and power.
5. [redacted] Wharf No 2 and all other wharves observed were of good
concrete construction with outriggered wood piling. No new construction or repair

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- 2 -

work was observed. [redacted] Wharf No 2 was approximately one thousand feet long and could tie up approximately three vessels. [redacted] Wharf [redacted] was apparently a military pier, since three Chinese IST-type landing ships and two Soviet IST-type landing ships were observed tied to this pier. No unusual activity such as refitting or repairs were observed aboard these vessels.

6. Looking south from the top bridge [redacted] while tied up on the south side of Wharf No 2 [redacted] observed what appeared to be the tops of two camouflaged circular tanks. [redacted] there may have been more beyond, but if so, they were hidden behind the two tanks observed. These tanks could not be seen from the land end of Wharf No 2.

7. [redacted] Chinese labor was of poor quality and worked only during the daylight for about eight hours. Peanuts were hauled from one of the warehouses on Wharf No 2 into trucks and hauled to the ship. The other warehouse on Wharf No 2 held cotton. [redacted] there were large warehouses on Wharf No 1 housing pigs, but no warehouses on Wharves No 3, 4, or 5.

8. Outward bound. [redacted] western part of the prohibited area in the Outer Harbor limits [redacted] was screened from view by smoke. The smoke was laid down by ex-Jap Type D or No 2 corvette-type vessel, as identified by source from Jane's Fighting Ships, 53-54, page 151. As the screen was being laid [redacted] five motor torpedo-type boats in the prohibited area traveling in a west by north westerly direction at a high rate of speed.

Liberty in Tsingtao

9. The ship's crew was allowed to go ashore from 0900 to 2300. Passes with individual photos were closely inspected by a sentry at the bottom of the gangway. There was no patrol maintained on the wharf between the gangway and the guardhouse at the land end of the wharf. At the guardhouse Chinese soldiers searched the crew members going on liberty and cautioned them not to speak to local citizens.
10. There were no prohibited areas in town. The city was clean and there was little to buy. [redacted] the "city hall," located between the land end of Wharves No 1 and No 2, had machine guns mounted on the roof, number or caliber unknown. [redacted] many soldiers in the streets of Tsingtao, but did not observe any barracks or encampment areas.

General Information

11. [redacted] in Tsingtao at the time of Stalin's death. [redacted] the only demonstration observed was that all ships were required to sound their whistles for a five-minute period. [redacted] Chinese laborers wrote anti-Stalin comments on the inside of the hull of a UK merchant ship they were loading. The UK Captain was arrested by Chinese soldiers and taken ashore.
12. [redacted] jets flying over the city in groups of two or three, but did not see any airfields or facilities, and could not remember what direction they came from or in what direction they were going.

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- 3 -

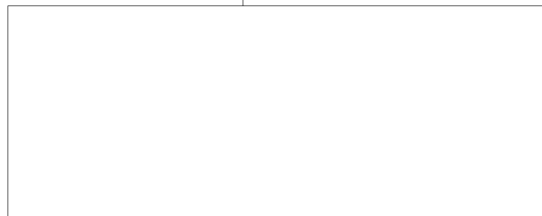
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Attention is drawn to the fact that a smoke screen was laid as [redacted] departed Tsingtao, and five motor torpedo-type vessels were observed in the prohibited area. In view of the smoke screen, a conclusion can be made to the effect that an attempt was made to conceal possible maneuvers or exercises being conducted by these vessels, or to conceal the vessels themselves.

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